

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

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April 15, 1950

CHANCELOR FIGL ON "TWO YEARS OF ERP IN AUSTRIA." On the occasion of the second anniversary of the beginning of the Marshall Plan, Austrian Chancellor Leopold Figl made a radio address in which he outlined the tremendous significance of America's noble gesture toward Austria. He said that "during the past two years it was possible for Austria to lay the foundation for a consolidated and sound economy." The next two years, the Chancellor said, would be devoted to raising the export capacity of Austrian products. "We are still faced with tasks of decisive importance, such as equalization of the balance of payments; participation in a project of European economic integration; maintenance of full employment; elimination of the housing shortage and improvement of the standard of living. The best way to show our gratitude for the aid that has been extended to us until now is to continue our efforts to insure speedy economic recovery of Austria, and, thereby, a secure future as a free country in a broader community of free nations in Europe."

Vice Chancellor Dr. Adolf Schaerf, who also reviewed the past two years of Marshall Plan aid, paid particular tribute to the achievements of Austrian labor and to the privations it had endured. During the lean years, Austria's workers had exhibited remarkable self-control and had understood fully the significance of the European Recovery Program.

UNITED NATIONS STATEMENTS ON THE STATUS OF AUSTRIA. On April 14th, in Lake Success, a memorandum on the legal validity of the undertakings concerning minorities was published by the Legal Department of the Secretariat of the United Nations. This study (E/CN 4/367) contains the following two statements on the status of Austria:

1. "In connection with Austria it should be noted that the Austrian State which had ceased to exist in March 1938 did not take part in the war, but the population of Austria, which became an administrative unit of the Reich, was obliged to do so. It may therefore be incorrect to speak of the Treaty of Peace with Austria; it is merely a question of dealing with the consequences of the war insofar as they affect Austria."

2. "Austria, which had been annexed by the German Reich on March 13, 1938, was reconstituted as an independent state in 1945. It is considered that Austria thus reconstituted is from a legal point of view the continuation of the Austrian State, which existed before the Anschluss (See the Declaration on Austria made at Moscow by the Four Powers, 19th to 30th October 1943). Thus the treaties concluded before March 1938 by Austria are regarded as still being in force."

FRANCE REDUCES HER OCCUPATION FORCES IN AUSTRIA. The French Government has decided to reduce sharply the size of its occupation forces in the Tyrol and Vorarlberg, according to a recent announcement by French Governor-General Voizard.

The announcement was made at the "Firstfest" (traditional Austrian festivity when the frame work of a house is completed - Editor) of six four-story buildings in Innsbruck, which were jointly financed by the French Government and the City of Innsbruck and which will provide 68 apartments for dislodged Austrian families and members or dependents of the French occupation forces. After termination of the occupation, the buildings will become the property of the City of Innsbruck.

AUSTRIAN MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR DENIES ALARMIST RUMORS ABOUT AUSTRIA.

In an interview granted early in April, Austrian Minister of the Interior Oskar Helmer denied a series of alarmist rumors that have recently appeared in the Cominform press regarding alleged military preparations in Western Austria. "It is part of the Cominform program," the Minister said, "to nettle countries which refuse to embrace the (Communist) doctrines, by relentlessly spreading false news and alarmist rumors about them."

These so-called news reports had claimed that fortifications and military airfields were being constructed in the Tyrol, with the full knowledge and acquiescence of the Austrian Government; that an army of foreign elements was being recruited in Styria and Carinthia; and, finally, that Austrian police and gendarmerie forces were being given military training.

Minister Helmer characterized these reports as pure inventions and clumsy lies calculated to unnerve the Austrian people and give the impression abroad that Austria was a stumping ground for thieves, spies and assorted criminals.

But, the Minister concluded, Austria's public safety and police authorities would continue to remain calm in the face of all such provocations and quietly fulfil the mission with which they were entrusted along democratic lines of action.

AUSTRIAN PARLIAMENT VOTES TO TEMPORARILY RETAIN DEATH PENALTY. Early in April, the Austrian Parliament approved a bill according to which the death penalty in regular judicial proceedings shall continue in force until December 31, 1951. Although Article 85 of the Austrian Constitution abolished the death penalty in such cases, a constitutional amendment approved in July 1946 temporarily reinstated it until June 30, 1950.

During the course of the debate on the extension of the bill, most deputies agreed that, although it was still justified because of the great number of capital crimes (265 in 1949), the death penalty must not be retained as a permanent institution.

VIENNA MUNICIPAL BUDGET PASSED. After extensive debate, the City Council of Vienna finally approved the regular municipal budget at the end of March. The city administration had been operating on a stand-by budget until that time. The new budget calls for expenditures of 1,719,781,740 schillings -- or about 1,000 schillings per inhabitant -- and estimated revenues of 1,633,477,220 schillings. The total deficit for the year will therefore amount to 86,304,520 schillings.

Heading the list of expenditures are 503,021,710 schillings, or 29.2%, for municipal payroll costs, and about 474 million schillings, or 27%, for health and welfare services. The major source of revenue is the general business tax (Gewerbesteuer), which is expected to yield some 220 million schillings. Other sources of revenue are payroll deductions (estimated 70 million), the real estate tax (est. 100 million) and the entertainment tax (est. 30 million).

VIENNA'S GREATEST PROBLEM: HOUSING. In 1948, only 650,000 apartments were available for 730,000 families in Vienna, it was revealed during a recent budget debate in the Vienna State Legislature. By 1945 war damage and postwar lack of maintenance materials had made 87,000 apartments unusable. Statistics released in 1941 had shown that at that time already there were 52,000 condemned dwellings, 12,000 of which were basement apartments.

Considering the postwar increase in population, it is not surprising that 40,000 applicants registered with the Vienna Housing Authority in 1949. Although the Municipal Administration is building 4,500 apartments per year, the housing shortage can be overcome only if funds greater than those now allotted in the budget are made available. As previously reported, the Allies last year returned a number of apartments and buildings they had requisitioned; nevertheless, there are still 3084 apartments, 482 sublets, 225 villas, 22 hotels and 39 apartment buildings under requisition.

ELECTIONS FOR AUSTRIAN CHAMBER OF AGRICULTURE HELD IN LOWER AUSTRIA AND VORARLBERG. In the elections for the Lower Austrian Chamber of Agriculture held on April 3, the 122,305 valid ballots cast were divided as follows: the Farmers' Association of Lower Austria (People's Party) received 105,217 votes (86%), the Socialist Workers' and Farmers' Association 16,482 votes (13%) and the Communist Association of Small Farmers 606 votes (0.4%). On the basis of these returns 36 of the 40 counselors elected to the Chamber of Agriculture will be members of the People's Party and 4 will be from the Socialist Party.

In Vorarlberg the Farmers' Association (People's Party) won all 18 seats in the Chamber of Agriculture.

AUSTRIAN PARLIAMENT VOTES TO BASE CUSTOMS TARIFF ON GOLD STANDARD. On March 31 the Austrian Parliament added a fourth amendment to the Customs Transition Act of June 1946, whereby customs tariff valuations will revert back to the gold standard effective May 1.

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This development, which is long overdue, has been expected for quite some time, inasmuch as many countries had raised their customs tariffs considerably in the past few years, whereas Austrian customs duties, computed on a schilling basis only, were still on a pre-1938 level and bore no relation to today's purchasing power of the schilling. Thus, while customs receipts in 1937 had amounted to about 14% of all federal revenue, the 1946 levies from customs duties dropped below 1% of all government receipts, and have never exceeded 2% since the war. Moreover, to promote her exports, Austria needs tariff concessions from the countries with which she does business, and she can expect these only if she is in a position to make comparable concessions herself.

An important stipulation contained in the new clause requires that customs duties be in gold currency or its equivalent. These will generally be paid in schilling currency, with the latter based on a gold crown conversion rate to be fixed and announced from time to time. Today the conversion rate is 4.69 schillings to the gold crown, on the basis of the gold quotation of the Austrian National Bank. Current customs duties are generally levied on the basis of the tariffs that were in effect on March 31, 1938.

To prevent the new customs duties from resulting in price increases of essential goods and higher production costs, the amendment authorizes the federal government to reduce or lift customs duties on certain goods where such action is in the national economic interest. Lists of goods to be duty-free or subject to lower duties will be drawn up in the near future, although this will not involve any commitments toward other countries.

AUSTRIA PROPOSES ESTABLISHMENT OF OEEC TRADE ADVISORY BOARD. At the Paris meeting of the Organization for European Economic Cooperation in March, Foreign Minister Dr. Karl Gruber as vice-president of the organization, submitted in the name of his country a proposal for the establishment of a central Trade Advisory Board for all ERP nations. The function of the board would be to centralize trade consultations of all Marshall Plan countries. According to the proposal, every country would send a trade representative to Paris in order to negotiate commercial agreements with other ERP member nations.

The Austrian delegation also prepared a joint proposal with Ireland for the establishment of an information clearinghouse at OEEC headquarters, through which individual ERP countries could exchange information on surplus goods and commodity requirements. Both proposals are calculated to strengthen and facilitate trade relations in Western Europe. Their long-term objective is to create an international trade office in Paris, where individual nations would be able to buy and sell their products.

ANOTHER 350 MILLION SCHILLINGS RELEASED FROM ERP COUNTERPART FUND. On April 8 Mr. Clyde N. King, head of the ECA mission in Austria, announced that the Economic Cooperation Administration in Washington had approved the release of another 350 million schillings from the Counterpart Fund, for financing large-scale investments in such industries as public power, building, paper, coal mining, the tourist trade and various basic industrial fields.

A total of 1,450 million schillings were released last year. The last such release, in the amount of 350 million schillings, was approved on December 9. As of March 31, the balance in the Counterpart Fund at the Austrian National Bank amounted to 1,890.2 million schillings.

3.5 BILLION SCHILLINGS RELEASED FROM COUNTERPART FUNDS TILL DECEMBER 31, 1949. Between the start of the Marshall Plan on April 1, 1948, (Austria officially joined the ERP on July 2, 1948) and December 31, 1949, a total of 3,538.1 million schillings have been released from the special counterpart fund at the Austrian National Bank, in which the schilling equivalent of the value of ERP imports must be deposited. The total sum released to date was used for the following purposes and in the amounts indicated:

Reduction of the national debt - 850 million schillings; investments contemplated under the extraordinary federal budget - 1,315.8 million; general housing - 50 million; construction of workers' dwellings - 30 million; farm and forestry rehabilitation - 128 million; industrial reconstruction - 1,149.3 million; and the tourist industry - 15 million.

This development, which is being carried out by the Government, is a very important step in the process of modernizing the economy. It is a step which will enable the country to move from a position of economic dependence to one of self-sufficiency. The Government has decided to take this step because it believes that it is in the best interests of the country to do so. It is a step which will enable the country to move from a position of economic dependence to one of self-sufficiency. The Government has decided to take this step because it believes that it is in the best interests of the country to do so.

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AUSTRIAN INFORMATION-4

SECRETARY GENERAL OF AUSTRIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DIES. Dr. Anton Widmann, Secretary General of the Austrian Chamber of Commerce, died suddenly in Vienna on March 23 at the age of fifty-seven.

Dr. Widmann, one of Austria's leading economists, was also economic adviser in the Executive Committee of the Austrian People's Party. Before the war he directed the Austrian Trade Association (Gewerbebund) of which he was the founder. During the Nazi occupation, Dr. Widmann was interned in the Dachau concentration camp, where he acquired a severe heart ailment which was finally to cause his death. The funeral ceremony was attended by a number of high-ranking government officials and Chancellor Leopold Figl paid warm tribute to Dr. Widmann's great accomplishments.

Dr. Franz Korinek was appointed successor to Dr. Widmann by the executive of the Chamber of Commerce on April 5. Dr. Korinek, who is 43 years old and was formerly a practicing attorney, has been active as counsel and representative of the Chamber since before 1938. He was interned for a protracted period of time by the Nazis after their occupation of the country.

AUSTRIAN NATIONAL INCOME INCREASED 19% IN 1949. The Central Austrian Department of Statistics recently estimated that Austria's national income in 1949 amounted to 30.54 billion schillings (as compared to 25.69 billion in 1948 and 21.39 billion in 1947). Despite higher price levels, the 19% increase over last year's figures is nevertheless regarded as evidence of a slight increase in the people's net income.

UNEMPLOYMENT DECLINES IN AUSTRIA. Official figures show that on March 31 there were 147,700 unemployed in Austria, 122,393 of whom were on government relief. These figures indicate a decrease of almost 25% over the alarming figures of February 15 which revealed that unemployment registrations at the time had reached 195,400. This decline is generally attributed to the upward trend in the construction industry.

AUSTRIAN FOREIGN TRADE DECREASES IN JANUARY 1950. Austria's foreign trade has shown a marked decrease in January 1950, after the record figures of December, 1949, which, however, were partly based on undelivered orders following the new currency regulations that went into effect last November. Exports dropped from 405 million schillings in December, 1949, to 342 million schillings in January, 1950, a decrease of more than 15%. In December 1949, they amounted to 257,985 tons and in January, 1950, to only 212,754 tons, a reduction of 45,231 tons, or about 17.5%.

Imports also showed a downward trend. Including ERP deliveries, imports declined from 807 million schillings in December to 740 million schillings in January, and, excluding ERP supplies, they fell from 616.4 to 548.7 million schillings or 8% and 11% respectively.

ADDITIONAL BRITISH CREDITS EXTENDED TO AUSTRIAN TEXTILE INDUSTRY. On April 3, representatives of the British banking institutions Hambros Ltd., Barclay Ltd. and N.M. Rothschild & Sons signed agreements with representatives of the Austrian National Bank, which provide an additional credit of 1,000,000 pounds sterling for the Austrian textile industry. The new credit increases to 2.5 million pounds sterling a previous 1.5-million-pound credit, which is still in effect after having been extended four times. Part of the credit will be used to finance imports of wool and textile accessories. Informed circles regard the extension of the enlarged credit as evidence of the confidence British private banks apparently have in the stability of Austrian economy.

DAILY STAPLE FIBRE OUTPUT IN LENZING REACHES 75 TONS. The Lenzing Staple Fibre Works in Upper Austria reached a new record output of 2,300 tons in March, which is equivalent to a daily production of about 75 tons. The plant now employs some 1800 workers. Unhampered by supply difficulties with regard to raw materials and spare parts, the plant has been able to raise its normal productive capacity by 25 per cent. Forty per cent of its output is being exported.

AUSTRIAN FIRM DEVELOPS NEW PAPER BAG SUPERIOR TO JUTE BAG. An Austrian firm has developed a new type of paper bag which is qualitatively superior to the ordinary type of jute bag currently in use. The domestic industrial use of this novel bag will save Austria considerable amounts of foreign exchange since she will no longer have to import raw jute or jute bags. The country's sugar industry has already been using large quantities of the new bag and flour mills have found that the paper bags

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AUSTRIAN INFORMATION-5

are superior to the jute variety for purposes of storage and maintenance of the product's freshness. Moreover, the paper bags are regarded as much more hygienic, aside from the fact that their use has practically eliminated loss due to pulverization.

EXTENSIVE BUSINESS ACTIVITY AT VIENNA SPRING FAIR. Austrian firms have expressed satisfaction at the number of transactions concluded at the Vienna Spring Fair held in mid-March. An especially brisk business was done by manufacturers of men's, women's and children's wear, as well as by jersey cloth and tie firms. Extensive sales are also reported from manufacturers of handicraft articles, thermometers, cigarette cases, toys, petit-point embroideries, furniture, musical instruments, high-grade paper, frame houses, radios, electric locomotives and cars, construction machinery, bicycles and special steel products.

INTERNATIONAL AUTOMOBILE SHOW IN VIENNA. An International Automobile Exhibition will be held at the "Rotundengelaende" in Vienna from May 14 to the 21st. Domestic and foreign passenger cars, trucks, motorcycles, bicycles, trailers, tires and automotive accessories will be on display.

AMERICANS IN AUSTRIA NOW ALLOWED TO SELL THEIR U.S. CARS TO AUSTRIANS. U.S. military and civilian personnel in Austria are now permitted to sell their American cars to Austrians against payment in schillings, according to new regulations announced by United States Forces in Austria at the end of March. Such sales had previously been illegal.

The regulations stipulate that sales can be effected only through authorized Austrian car dealers and that the seller must furnish evidence that he has owned the car for at least six months prior to the sale. Furthermore, each USFA member will be restricted to the sale of only one car. US Finance Offices which sell Austrian Schillings at a rate of 21.36 Schillings to the Dollar, will not convert the proceeds from these sales into American currency.

AUSTRIAN INSURANCE COMPANIES PAID OUT 170 MILLION SCHILLINGS IN 1949. Austrian Insurance companies paid out a total of 169,992,985 schillings on 386,727 claims in 1949, according to a report of the Association of Austrian Insurance Companies. Of these, 94,940 claims totalling 104,185,624 schillings were for cases of property damage; 61,228 claims amounting to 30,469,367 schillings for cases of life insurance; 225,987 claims on medical insurance totalling 28,270,000 schillings; and 4,000 claims for a total of 6,998,188 schillings were for cases of transport insurance.

REGULATIONS FOR USE OF BLOCKED ACCOUNTS IN AUSTRIA ALTERED. Foreigners holding blocked bank accounts in Austria may now make contributions from such accounts for the support of near relatives and to charitable, religious, and other organizations worthy of support, in amounts up to 500 (formerly 300) schillings per person per month, according to announcement No. 39 of the Austrian National Bank, dated February 14 and effective February 21, 1950.

The same announcement authorized holders of such accounts to make payments from them up to 1,500 (formerly 1,000) schillings per person per week to defray costs of non-commercial travel in Austria incurred by the account holder, the members of his family, and their personal servants.

The only other existing general licenses for the use of foreigners' blocked accounts authorize payments to Austrian residents for the performance of services in connection with the administration or safeguarding of blocked property in Austria belonging to the account holder, and payment of income or property tax in Austria. Block bank accounts of foreigners may be used for purposes other than those enumerated above only pursuant to a special license of the Austrian National Bank.

TODAY'S AUSTRIAN CIGARETTES HAVE LOWER NICOTINE CONTENT. Last year the Austrian Tobacco Monopoly produced 4,346,837,000 cigarettes, 73,092,000 cigars, 1,414,992 kilos of pipe tobacco and snuff, and 25,990 pieces of chewing tobacco.

Today's Austrian cigarettes are made primarily from oriental tobacco, the nicotine content of which has naturally decreased in recent years. Thus, for example, a 1938 "Memphis" cigarette had a nicotine content of 1.5%, whereas a 1950 cigarette of the same brand and containing the same amount of tobacco has a nicotine content of only 0.7%.

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The nicotine content of other current Austrian cigarette brands is 1% for the "Sport" and the "Dames", 1.5% for the "C", "Donau" and "Austria III", and 1.8% for the "Jonny".

AUSTRIAN POST OFFICE HANDLED 482 MILLION LETTERS IN 1949. The Austrian Postal Administration, with its 40,000 active and 20,000 retired employees, is the second largest concern in Austria. In 1949 it handled 482 million letters, 289 million newspapers and 264 million registered or insured pieces of mail such as packages, registered letters, letters containing valuables etc., the administration recently announced.

Since most Austrian firms, in addition to their bank accounts, also keep an account at the Austrian Postal Savings Bank, the money turnover at this institution is considerable. The postal accounts are used primarily for tax payments and numerous other payments effected by check. Thirty-five million such crossed postal checks, as they are called, with a total value of 14.5 billion schillings were issued in 1949. In addition, the Post Office handled 8 million money orders for a total value of about 1.5 billion schillings and 19.7 million postal checks with an aggregate value of 5.5 billion schillings. These figures reflect a note circulation of approximately 5.3 billion schillings and indicate that four times the balance of notes generally on hand passed through the postal administration last year.

With regard to its telephone system, the administration's report states that Austria now has 30,516.8 miles of telephone line, and about 395,000 telephones.

The report also reveals that Austria now operates the most modern teletype network in Europe. The Central Post Office in Vienna has teletype connections with its offices in Linz, Salzburg, Graz, Klagenfurt, Innsbruck and Bregenz, with a total of 440 teletype subscribers connected to this network. In 1949 teletype connections were also established with Belgium, France, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary.

SIX TYPES OF MINERAL BATHS AVAILABLE IN AUSTRIA. A recent survey of Austria's medicinal springs reveals that the more than six different types of mineral baths available have produced remarkable therapeutic results that are almost unknown abroad. The first of these includes the "acratothermal springs", so called because of their warm waters and low mineralization. Better known are the radioactive springs such as Badgastein and Hofgastein, whose radium emanations have a decisive restorative effect on the body's organs and have repeatedly proven their specific value against rheumatic pains as well as against nervous, circulatory and consumptive diseases. The non-radioactive hot springs -- such as the Fischau and Voeslau baths in Lower Austria, Hintertux and Volderwildbad in the Tyrol, Kleinkirchheim and Villach in Carinthia -- are ideal for combatting non-specific conditions due to exhaustion.

The second group includes such baths as Gleichenberg in Styria and Tatzmannsdorf in the Burgenland, whose waters have a higher carbonic acid content and are particularly effective against heart, vascular and circulatory diseases. They also contain calcium ions that are of marked therapeutic value against asthma and similar conditions.

Another group are the medicinal springs containing sodium chloride and brine. The best known of these are at Aussee in Styria, Hall in the Tyrol and Bad Ischl in Upper Austria. They are most potent in curing diseases of the respiratory organs, scrofula and female ailments.

The most famous and typical of the fourth variety is the iodine bath at Hall in Upper Austria, where notable therapeutic results have been obtained against arteriosclerosis, high blood pressure and faulty metabolism. Another group, that of Austria's sulfur springs at Bad Schallerbach and Goisern in Upper Austria, Baden near Vienna, and Deutsch-Altenburg in Lower Austria, is comparable in every respect to the most potent sulfur springs abroad for the treatment of skin diseases or arthritic and rheumatic pains.

The last major type of medicinal baths are the mud baths at Mattsee, Kreuzbrueckl, Ludwigsbad and Marienbad (Salzburg), Bad Tatzmannsdorf (Burgenland) and Neidharting (Upper Austria), to name but a few, where general arthritic conditions, female diseases and after-effects of injuries are cured.

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VIENNESE GYNECOLOGIST INVITED TO SOUTH AMERICA. Professor Paul Werner, a gynecologist of international repute and Director of the Department of Gynecology at the Municipal Hospital of Vienna, has been invited to Rio de Janeiro and Buenos Aires to demonstrate his surgery techniques to South American doctors, thus confirming once more the world-wide fame of the Viennese medical school. The invitation explicitly stated that Dr. Werner had been chosen from among many foreign doctors and that he was the first foreign scholar invited after the war to lecture on gynecological methods.

PART OF VIENNA'S BELVEDERE GUTTED BY FIRE. The famous "Goldkabinett" (Gold Chamber) in the east tower of the Belvedere Castle in Vienna, as well as the entire woodwork of its roof, was completely destroyed by fire on March 31.

The Belvedere Castle, which was built by the famous architect Lukas von Hildebrandt and served as Prince Eugene of Savoy's country residence, had already been severely damaged during the war. The destruction of the resplendent gold chamber is all the more regrettable since it had generally been regarded as an especially fine and noteworthy art treasure of Vienna, because of its octagonal shape and its rich ornamentation. The cause of the fire is still unknown.

INNSBRUCK ART EXHIBITION OPENS IN JUNE. An art exhibition of paintings and sculptures from the Middle Ages will be held at the Tyrolean Provincial Museum in Innsbruck, under the title "Gothic Art in the Tyrol", from the end of June to the end of September of this year.

ANTON ROMAKO COMMEMORATIVE EXHIBITION HELD IN VIENNA. An exhibition in commemoration of the Austrian painter Anton Romako (1832 - 1889) opened in Vienna's Academy of Arts at the end of March. Despite the fact that Romako's art never achieved great popularity with the public at large and has remained practically unknown until now, this exhibition of his highly individual works is generally regarded as a great success.

DRAWINGS FROM VIENNESE COLLECTION SHOWN IN PARIS. An exhibition of drawings from the collection of the Albertina Museum in Vienna opened at the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris at the beginning of April. Represented in the exhibition are drawings by Duerer, Rembrandt, Leonardo da Vinci, Rafael, Rubens and Van Dyck.

VIENNESE CONDUCTOR RECEIVED BY QUEEN ELIZABETH. Dr. Josef Krips, the Austrian conductor now on a very successful concert tour in England, was recently received by Queen Elizabeth during the intermission of a concert in London's Albert Hall attended by 7,000 people. Queen Elizabeth expressed her appreciation of Dr. Krips' fine performance.

VIENNA HONORS OSCAR STRAUSS. On March 19 the Vienna City Council approved a proposal to honor Oscar Strauss by bestowing upon the famous composer the Honorary Ring of the City of Vienna, in acknowledgement of his great contribution to the musical development of Vienna. Oscar Strauss recently celebrated his 80th birthday.

WORLD'S FIRST AUTOMOBILE TO MAKE COMMEMORATIVE RUN THROUGH VIENNA. The world's first vehicle to be self-propelled by a gasoline-powered internal-combustion engine, which was built by the Viennese inventor Siegfried Marcus, will make a commemorative run through the streets of Vienna on April 16. The 75-year-old vehicle was carefully restored to its original operating condition without the addition of any later automotive improvements. The automobile, which made its first public run in 1875, has a maximum speed of 6 to 8 kilometers per hour, a 0.75 HP motor and a climbing capacity of exactly 2%.

Marcus had already assembled an automobile in 1864, but this fore-runner of his second model is no longer in existence; however, it had already included a gasoline drive, a carburetor, electromagnetic ignition and a four-cycle motor.

FOREIGN WELFARE AGENCIES PLACED UNDER AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT JURISDICTION. Supervision of all American and foreign welfare agencies and independent assistance organizations in Austria was transferred to the Federal Government on April 1, according to an announcement by United States Forces in Austria. In a final report, USFA headquarters revealed that between the beginning of the occupation and the end of 1949 the U.S. Army had extended to Austria about 180 million dollars' worth of supplies and services for welfare and reconstruction purposes. This

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AUSTRIAN INFORMATION-8

aid was in addition to the supplies received under the Marshall Plan and other assistance programs authorized by Congress.

During the same period, independent welfare organizations had furnished supplies in excess of 60 million dollars, 41 million of which came from the United States.

FOOD SHIPMENTS FOR AUSTRIAN CHILDREN. The American Friends of Austrian Children, Inc., 202-4 East 19th Street, New York 3, N.Y., have started a campaign to raise funds for food shipments of at least one hundred tons of food supplies for needy children in Austria.

These food shipments will be delivered to Summer Camps, where undernourished children are cared for, in order to restore their impaired health and to build up their resistance to illness and disease. Medical statistics show that thirty seven percent of these children are still undernourished. Appeals have been sent out and it is particularly stressed that the number of children thus cared for, will directly depend on the response of the American public, which cannot remain indifferent to the plight of these children who are growing up in one of our most important outposts of Western democracy.

Considerable quantities of Surplus powdered milk and dried eggs are available to the American Friends of Austrian Children, Inc., through the Commodity Credit Corporation, Dept. of Agriculture. However, considerable freight charges from Middle West Storage Points to East Coast Ports have to be met by the American Friends of Austrian Children, Inc. The ECA is paying the full ocean freight to the European Port. Every \$100.- donated to this cause will make it possible for Austrian children to receive food supplies representing a value of \$5000.-.

The Austrian Minister to Washington, Dr. L. Kleinwaechter is Honorary Chairman of the American Friends of Austrian Children, Inc., and among its sponsors are outstanding personalities from Congress, Public Life, the Trade Unions, and Universities.

NEW AIRLINE SERVICES TO AUSTRIA. The Dutch Air Line KLM is planning a new air service from Amsterdam to Linz (Upper Austria) and regular flights from Amsterdam to Innsbruck (Tyrol) in the near future.

Direct flights from Brussels to Salzburg twice a week will start on April 16. Total flying time, including stops at Frankfurt and Munich, will be three and a half hours.

MOZARTEUM IN SALZBURG OFFERS SEMINAR IN DIRECTING DRAMA AND OPERA. From July 20th to August 26th 1950 the Salzburg Mozarteum will offer a theater seminar for students of stage directing. The courses will be given in English by European authorities in the field. The production of legitimate drama will be dealt with by Ernst Lothar, the former manager and director of Reinhardt's Theater in der Josefstadt. Emil Pirchan, widely known for his scenic designs in Berlin and Vienna, is scheduled to speak on costuming and make-up. Caspar Neher, whose designs for Brecht's plays have set the style for the production of Epic Drama, plans to give a course on the relation of scene design to play production. A.M. Nagler, Professor in the Yale Department of Drama, will lecture on the history of stage directing. Designer Gustav Vargo will conduct the stage workshop. A teacher for the staging of opera will be named shortly. The directing seminar will coincide with the Salzburg Theater and Music Festival so that the students will have the opportunity to attend the theatrical performances and concerts. The tuition fee for the directing seminar is one hundred dollars. Detailed information may be obtained from the Austrian State Tourist Department, 48 East 48th Street, New York 17, N.Y.

WESTPOINT CADETS VISIT AUSTRIAN ART TREASURES. On April 15, a group of about 50 members of the German Club of the West Point Military Academy visited the Austrian Art Treasures at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

On this occasion, a lecture was given in German by the well-known Austrian art critic Dr. Else Hoffmann.

NEW PUBLICATION ON ART TREASURES FROM VIENNA. ART TREASURES FROM VIENNA, an attractive book, replete with black and white reproductions of the great masterpieces in the famous Vienna Collection, has just been published by Louis Mariano of the Chicago Daily News.

This book is a valuable reference for connoisseurs as well as students of art because of the distinguished and succinct commentary of Clarence J. (C.J.) Bulliet, well-known art critic of the Chicago

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Daily News and author of several books including "Apples and Madonnas."

In his introduction he tells the fascinating history of how these art works were assembled originally under one roof. Next follows a brief resumé of the lives and works of 24 master painters, and finally he discusses the art objects which have contributed to make this collection world-famous.

Aside from being an excellent guide to anyone visiting the show, (which is to be seen successively in New York, San Francisco, Chicago, etc.), it is a charming addition to anyone's art library. The price is \$1.00 and it can be obtained through the New York sales representative, Stephanie Lieber, 169 East 78th street, N.Y.C.

"ALL ABOUT AUSTRIA" -- A NEW BOOK FOR TRAVEL ENTHUSIASTS. Virginia Creed's travel guide "All About Austria", with a foreword by General Mark Clark, former American High Commissioner in Austria, is the first of a series of travel guides published by Duell, Sloan and Pearce, 270 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y., and also the first travel guide of Austria ever to be published in the United States. The book, which sells for \$2.50, is primarily intended for those going to Austria and contains full particulars about preliminary planning, getting there, transportation, accommodations and other practical matters. The geographic and historic background of the country is sketched in a chapter entitled "The Austrian Story". A descriptive grand tour of Austria constitutes the body of the book. A section called "Useful Information" at the back of the book covers such matters as topography, area, climate, government, as well as technical information on transportation and a list of important spas. Under "Sports" full coverage is given to folding boats, hiking, climbing, hunting and winter sports.

TELEVISION FILMS WITH SALZBURG PUPPET THEATER IN PREPARATION. An American motion picture company is now filming a series of Grimm fairy tales for U.S. television stations, with the participation of the Salzburg Puppet Theater, under the direction of its founder Professor Aicher. The television films are being prepared in Salzburg.

PUBLICITY FILM TO PROMOTE AUSTRIAN WINTERSPORT RESORTS. A publicity film on Austrian wintersport resorts featuring Dagmar Rom, holder of two world titles, and Egon Schoepf will be completed at the end of April. The picture will include shots of such famous ski centers as Kitzbuehel, St. Anton, Obergurgl, Zuers and Innsbruck. It is expected to be shown in the United States this fall.

AUSTRIA BESTS ITALY IN SOCCER ENCOUNTER. An enthusiastic crowd of 65,000 soccer fans filled the Vienna Stadium on April 2nd to see Austria's national soccer team wring a 1 to 0 victory from Italy's top eleven, in a tense match which the press had heralded as "The Game of the Year". The expert playing of the Italian team was wildly cheered by 7,000 Italian fans who had come to Vienna from all parts of Italy especially for the occasion. The encounter was one of several for the European Cup Competition in which, aside from Italy and Austria, Switzerland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia are also participating. Austria is now in the lead as a result of her victory over Italy.

During the intermission, the Austrian Ski Team, recently returned from the United States and Canada where it had covered itself with glory by winning so many world titles, was honored in a ceremony and madly acclaimed by the public. On the same day, the Austrian national B team was defeated by Italy 2 to 1 in Florence.

Two weeks before, the Vienna Stadium had played host to Switzerland's national team, and, although the Austrians had gained a 3 to 1 lead, the Swiss players rallied and the game finally ended in a 3 to 3 tie.

GLIDER FLIGHTS IN THE TYROL. Half-hourly passenger flights in two-seater gliders were inaugurated on Easter in Kufstein, Tyrol. Inasmuch as the Kufstein area is geographically ideal for volplaning, a glider meet will be held there at Pentacost. A large international glider camp is also planned for this summer.

NOTE: This issue has been erroneously dated April 15, 1950. The correct date is April 20, 1950.

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